



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

touches in so many ways upon the science of geology, that a brief, compendious, general treatise like this, without the mathematics, is useful to the geologist. He will be interested in the chapters relating to the moon and particularly the tides and their effects upon the earth's rotation, since these subjects are now so much discussed by speculative geologists. So also the chapters on meteors, and especially the last chapter on cosmogony, including the statement of the nebular hypothesis, will be valuable as giving the opinions and conclusions of one of the leading astronomers of the day, while the concluding paragraph will be of interest as showing how the subject is treated:

"It must be understood that the nebular hypothesis, as we have explained it, is not a perfectly established scientific theory, but only a philosophical conclusion founded on the widest study of nature, and pointed to by many otherwise disconnected facts. The widest generalization associated with it is, that so far as we can see, the universe is not self-sustaining, but is a kind of organism which, like all other organisms we know of, must come to an end in consequence of those very laws of action which keep it going. It must have had a beginning within a certain number of years which we cannot yet calculate with certainty, but which cannot much exceed 20,000,000, and it must end in a chaos of cold, dead globes at a calculable time in the future, when the sun and stars shall have radiated away all their heat, unless it be re-created by the action of forces of which we at present know nothing."

NATURE STUDIES.<sup>1</sup>—This is a compact reprint of essays by some of the leading English popular-science writers which appeared in *Knowledge*. They are light, readable and timely papers, and vastly superior to much of the literature sold in bookstalls and railroad cars. As for being "studies," however, one may smile when we find Mr. Proctor who, we believe, started as an astronomer, writing, very pleasantly to be sure but perhaps not always authoritatively, on Darwin, Newton and Darwin; the Fiji islands, strange sea monsters, intelligence in animals, brain troubles and thought reading. The bare thought of one individual assuming the rôle of an expert and putting forth "studies" as only such an expert should, on such a concatenation of subjects, is enough to take one's breath away. The publishers, moreover, who do not seem to be over strong evolutionists, appear in a preface to mildly question whether some of the facts stated under the head of "found links" may not be "doubtful." We find, however, that what Professor Wilson writes upon is generally correct and very pleasantly written, though he is a compiler, and his sources are purely English. His readers are left almost entirely in the dark

<sup>1</sup>*Nature Studies*. By GRANT ALLEN, ANDREW WILSON, THOMAS FOSTER, EDWARD CLODD, and RICHARD A. PROCTOR. New York, Funk & Wagnalls. Standard Library No. 91. 12mo, pp. 252. 25 cents.

as to what has been done in Germany, and especially Belgium, France and the United States.

Mr. Grant Allen also, like a busy bee, after visiting the "honey ants," takes up with "hyacinth bulbs" and then solaces himself with "a winter weed," and in the spring time discourses on "the first daffodil," and later on in the book, whether in the vernal season or no, discovers "the origin of buttercups," and later on, perhaps in some autumn number of *Knowledge*, tells us "what is a grape."

The book is what in boarding-house idiom would be styled excellent "hash," well-seasoned for the most fastidious stomach, even when called upon to digest "strange sea monsters."

STUDIES FROM THE BIOLOGICAL LABORATORY OF JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY.—This number completes the second volume of these important "studies." Among the strictly zoölogical papers are Professor E. A. Birge's notes on the development of *Panopæus sayi*, with four plates; the structure and growth of the shell of the oyster, by H. L. Osborn, with one plate; the nervous system of Porpita, by H. W. Conn and H. G. Beyer, M.D., with one plate; notes on the Medusæ of Beaufort, N. C., Part II, by Professor W. K. Brooks. Under the head of histology would come the paper by Professor A. H. Tuttle on the presence of ciliated epithelium in the human kidney.

The physiological papers are of much value; they are the following: On the effect of variations of arterial pressure on the duration of the systole and the diastole of the heart-beat, by W. H. Howell and J. S. Ely, with one plate; the action of ethyl alcohol upon the dog's heart, by Professor H. N. Martin and Lewis T. Stevens, and lastly, a reprint from the Proceedings of the Royal Society, London, of Professor Martin's paper on the direct influence of gradual variations of temperature upon the rate of beat of the dog's heart.

BULLETIN OF THE ILLINOIS STATE LABORATORY OF NATURAL HISTORY.—This is the sixth bulletin issued by this useful institution in May last, and contains four papers by Mr. S. A. Forbes, the director, as follows: I. The regulative action of birds upon insect oscillations; II. The food relations of the Carabidæ and Coccinellidæ; III. The food of the smaller fresh-water fishes; and IV. The first food of the common white-fish (*Coregonus clupeiformis*). The first two papers have already been noticed in this magazine, and the entire series are fresh and valuable contributions to biology, and contain the result of extensive and patient observation.

HERRICK'S TYPES OF ANIMAL LIFE SELECTED FOR LABORATORY USE IN INLAND DISTRICTS.—This is the first part of this publication, and is devoted to the Arthropoda. The general anatomy of the larva of Corethra, of a Copepod (*Canthocamptus minutus*),